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| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/565,566   | 01/23/2006  | Hisamitsu Takagi     | 12088/042001        | 2114             |
| 22511  | 7590        | 10/05/2007           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| OSHA LIANG L.L.P.<br>1221 MCKINNEY STREET<br>SUITE 2800<br>HOUSTON, TX 77010 |             |                      | RODRIGUEZ, RUTH C   |                  |
|  |             | ART UNIT             |                     | PAPER NUMBER     |
|  |             | 3677                 |                     |                  |
|  |             | NOTIFICATION DATE    | DELIVERY MODE       |                  |
|  |             | 10/05/2007           | ELECTRONIC          |                  |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

docketing@oshaliang.com  
buta@oshaliang.com

| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
|                              | 10/565,566             | TAKAGI ET AL.       |  |
| Examiner                     | Art Unit               |                     |  |
| Ruth C. Rodriguez            | 3677                   |                     |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 July 2007.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                    2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

4)  Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6)  Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.  
7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on 23 January 2006 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_ .  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_ . 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_ .

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

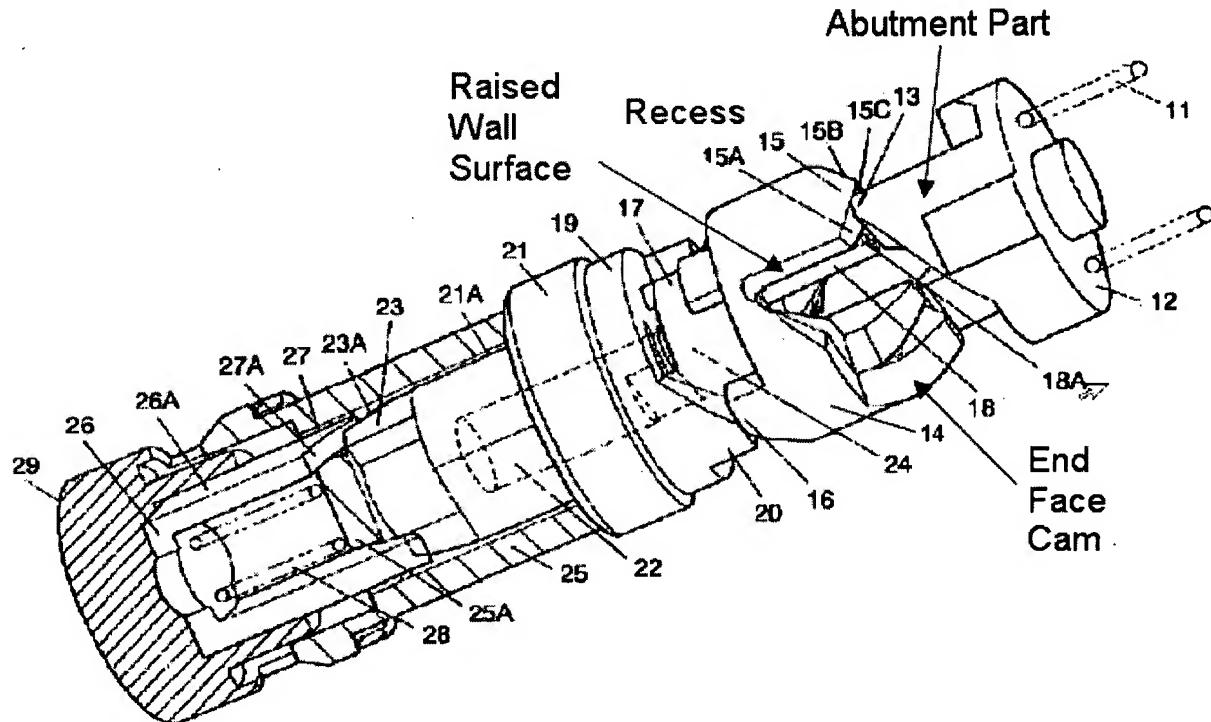
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Minami et al ("Minami", U.S. Patent No. 6,886,221).

Minami discloses a hinge apparatus comprising a first hinge member (12) and a second hinge member (25) turnably connected to the first hinge member, a movable member (14) arranged on a turning axial line of the first and second hinge members in such a manner as to be turnable about the turning axial line and movable in the direction of the turning axial line (Figs. 1-7B). Biasing means (3) are adapted to bias the movable member (14) toward the first hinge member (12). The first hinge member and the movable member have confronting surfaces (Figs. 5A-7B) confronting surfaces. One of the confronting surfaces is provided a plurality of end face cams (provided in movable member 14) extending in a peripheral direction about the turning axial line and equally spacedly arranged in the peripheral direction about the turning axial line (see

figure below). A raised wall surface (vertical wall next to 15A) extends in the direction of the turning axial line and is disposed between two of the end face cams that are adjacent in the peripheral direction (see figure below). The other of the confronting surfaces of the first hinge member and the movable member (14) is provided with a pair of abutment parts (13) that are urged against the pair of end face cams (13) by the biasing force of the biasing means and co-acts with the pair of end face cams to convert the biasing force of the biasing means to a turn biasing force for turning the second hinge member (25) through the movable member (14). A recess (15A) is formed in the raised wall surface so as to extend into the raised wall portion in the peripheral direction about the turning axial line and arranged on an extension of the end face cam (13).



3. With respect to claims 2 and 3, Minami discloses that one side surface of the recess forms part of the end face cam (see figure above). The end face cam has a length of at least 180 degrees in the peripheral direction (see figure above).

***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments filed 18 July 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

5. The Applicant argues that Minami fails to disclose "a recess formed in the raised wall surface so as to extend into the raised wall surface in the peripheral direction about the turning axial line" and provides an explanation of why Minami fails to disclose the recess. The Examiner fails to be persuaded by this argument. The Examiner has revised the previous rejection to clarify how every limitation is met and a figure is being provided to visually identify each element. The recess (15a) is formed in the upper end of the raised wall surface so as to extend into the raised wall surface in the peripheral direction about the turning axial line. Therefore, claims 1-3 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Minami et al.

***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth C Rodriguez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7070. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 07:15 - 15:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075.

Submissions of your responses by facsimile transmission are encouraged. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Recognizing the fact that reducing cycle time in the processing and examination of patent applications will effectively increase the patent's term, it is to your benefit to submit responses by facsimile transmission whenever permissible. Such submission will place the response directly in our examining group's hands and will eliminate Post Office processing and delivery time as well as PTO's mailroom

processing and delivery time. For a complete list of correspondence **not** permitted by facsimile transmission, see MPEP § 502.01. In general, most responses and/or amendments not requiring a fee, as well as those requiring a fee but charging such fee to a deposit account, can be submitted by facsimile transmission. Responses requiring a fee that the applicant is paying by check **should not** be submitted by facsimile transmission separately from the check.

Responses submitted by facsimile transmission should include a Certificate of Transmission (MPEP § 512). The following is an example of the format the certification might take:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (571) 273-8300) on (Date).

(Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate)

(Signature)

If your response is submitted by facsimile transmission, you are hereby reminded that the original should be retained as evidence of authenticity (37 CFR 1.4 and MPEP § 502.02). Please do not separately mail the original or another copy unless required by the Patent and Trademark Office. Submission of the original response or a follow-up copy of the response has been transmitted by facsimile will cause further unnecessary delays in the processing of your application, duplicate responses where fees are charged to a deposit account may result in those fees being charged twice.

Art Unit: 3677

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-6640.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/RCR/  
Ruth C. Rodriguez  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3677

rcr  
September 28, 2007

*Katherine Mitchell*  
Katherine Mitchell  
Primary Examiner